

City of Pomona

505 S. Garey Ave
Pomona, CA 91766

Regular Meeting Minutes

YOUTH COMMISSION

Chair Vincent M. Jones
Vice Chair Angel D. Aguilar-Andrade
Commissioner Ruby Dias
Commissioner Kimberly Velazquez-Garcia
Commissioner Gladis Cabrera
Commissioner Sasha Jimenez
Commissioner Shayla Diaz



VISION STATEMENT

Pomona will be recognized as a vibrant, safe, beautiful community that is a fun and exciting destination and the home of arts and artists, students and scholars, business and industry.

Thursday May 1, 2025

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Vincent Marcel Jones
Vice Chair Angel D. Aguilar-Andrade
Commissioner Sasha Jimenez
Commissioner Ruby Dias

Absent: Commissioner Kimberly Velazquez-Garcia
Commissioner Gladis Cabrera
Commissioner Shayla Diaz

STAFF PRESENT

Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager
Roberto Curiel, Recreation Supervisor

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Jimenez said the mural at Hamilton Park is now finished and it looks really nice. She said she was invited to speak at the Youth Commission Info Night and it was a good turnout. She stated she attended a meeting with CalPoly students who spoke about ways to improve Holt Avenue.

Commissioner Aguilar-Andrade thanked Commissioner Jimenez for inviting him to the CalPoly meeting which addressed safety and transportation.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

It was recommended that the Youth Commission approve the meeting minutes of April 3, 2025. **Motion by Commissioner Jimenez, second made by Commissioner Dias to approve the meeting minutes of April 3, 2025 and carried 4-0.**

VII. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

1. Day One Presentation on Tobacco Use Awareness

Alisha Lopez, Director of Tobacco Programs presented about the harms of tobacco use and the work that Day One is doing to reduce youth access to tobacco in Pomona. She provided an overview of Day One, its mission, and work. She provided data and statistics from the 2024 National Youth Tobacco Survey, stating that tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable deaths and highlighting tobacco product use among US middle and high school students in 2024. Ms. Lopez shared the short-term effects of cigarette smoking include bad breath, yellow teeth, wrinkles, gum disease, and coughing. The long-term effects include cancer, heart disease, stroke, lung disease, diabetes, and emphysema.

Ms. Lopez spoke about e-cigarettes, its design, heavy marketing, and that it is highly addictive. She explained what e-liquids or e-juice are. She stated that they are flavored and appeal to youth and is the leading cause of the youth vaping epidemic. In 2022, CA voters upheld a state law that prohibits the sale of flavored tobacco products, but tobacco flavored vapes were exempt from the law and legal to purchase. She spoke about the health effects of e-cig use which include addiction and nicotine dependence, respiratory symptoms, sleep problems, and mental health impacts. Ms. Lopez shared that there are new and emerging products such as zyn, which are smokeless, oral nicotine pouchless, spitless, odorless, discrete, and exploding in popularity within social media.

Javier Rodriguez-Rivera, a Day One Youth Advocate spoke about the effects that tobacco use has on dental health. Ms. Lopez spoke about successful strategies in reducing youth access to tobacco product, such as policies that regulate the sale of tobacco products, requiring merchants to obtain a license to sell tobacco products, and provisions that prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products. Other strategies include establishing minimum prices, prohibiting coupons and discounts, establishing minimum pack size, restricting sales in youth sensitive areas, and restricting sales in pharmacies. She shared survey results collected by Day One staff after visiting 113 tobacco retail stores to check what tobacco products were being sold. Among the 106 retailers that were still selling tobacco products in Pomona, unflavored cigarettes were the most available and 69% of retailers were identified to have at least one flavored tobacco product on display, and 5% of retailers were willing to sell tobacco products to young adults. Ms. Lopez shared results from a public opinion survey asking about attitudes

towards tobacco in the community. There is strong support among residents who want to prohibit the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies, prohibit the use of discounts/coupons, and prohibit the sale of tobacco within two blocks from youth sensitive areas.

Isaiha Hinkley, a Day One Advocate shared a personal story about tobacco and spoke about why reducing youth access to products in Pomona is important.

Ms. Lopez concluded the presentation and offered to answer questions from the Commission. Chair Jones asked how the minimum pricing is supposed to deter youth from purchasing products. Ms. Lopez responded that because youth and young adults are more price sensitive, they are less likely to buy items that are priced higher due to the minimum count per pack.

Vice Chair Aguilar-Andrade asked how Day One is preventing youth from selling tobacco products to their peers. Ms. Lopez responded that youth selling or giving tobacco products to their peers is an issue, however Day One's focus is preventing retailers from selling tobacco products to youth through policies and regulations.

2. Pomona Pride Center Presentation

Arianna Guzman, Youth Services Director provided an overview of what the Pomona Pride Center offers, its mission, and service area. Ms. Guzman showed photos of the communal space that is used for hanging out or doing homework. The Center has a gender-neutral closet that is open Wednesday – Saturday and offers hygiene products on Tuesdays. Ms. Guzman spoke about the programs and events offered such as fellowship, mentoring, support programming, art classes, and crocheting. The Center offers internships, scholarships, fieldtrips, and resources referring. Harm reduction services include Narcan, fentanyl testing strips, condoms, covid tests, gender affirming products, support and hygiene products.

No questions from the Commission. Chair Jones thanked Ms. Guzman for providing information about the Pomona Pride Center.

VIII. STAFF COMMUNICATION

- The Egg Hunt event was a success with about 1100 attendees between the four concurrent egg hunts and a teen egg hunt.
- The After School Recreation Program collaborated with Public Works and Athens for an Earth Day activity.
- The summer recreation guide is available online and will be mailed to Pomona households soon.
- The Heroes of Pomona Speech Contest is returning and will be culminate on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 6pm at Council Chambers.
- There are many activities this summer, including new ones such as offering a family campout at Palomares Park.
- Go Skateboarding Day is Saturday, June 21, 2025
- Due to budgetary constraints, there will be only one summer concert. *Tierra* will perform at the Ganesha Park Bandshell.
- There will six movie nights and pools will be opening Memorial Weekend and offering night swim.

- There will be family camping trip to Yosemite National Park. Partnering with NPS will service-learning opportunities.
- City Council approved the sunseting of the Youth Commission due to the creation of a Measure Y Committee. The committee will comprise of eight members to be between the ages of 15-24, and seven members to be over age 24.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jones adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m. to the next meeting on Thursday, June 5, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Pomona Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Monica Belloso
Management Analyst

Vincent M. Jones
Chair of the Youth Commission